

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of adhering a floor covering, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said floor covering; and
installing the floor covering,
wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, M_n , of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000, where said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer, and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler;

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μm , a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μm and a combination thereof; and

wherein said polymer optionally further comprises a monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C_1 - C_{10} -hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylamide and its N- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-substituted derivative, an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a monoester of a dicarboxylic acid and an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 80 to 100% by weight in said polymer.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said C₁- to C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 90 to 99.8% by weight in said polymer.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said aqueous composition has 10 to 45% by weight of said polymer and 55 to 90% by weight of said filler.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said aqueous composition has 60 to 85% by weight of said filler.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer comprises at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate, a vinyl ester of a carboxylic acid having up to 20 carbon atoms, a vinylaromatic compound having up to 20 carbon atoms, an ethylenically unsaturated nitrile, a vinyl halide and a nonaromatic hydrocarbon having at least 2 conjugated double bonds.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 40% by weight.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 20% by weight.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0.2 to 10% by weight.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the gel content of the polymer is more than 5% and less than 20% by weight.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, where the polymer is present in the form of an aqueous dispersion with a concentration of from 40 to 75%.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, where a content of a volatile organic compound having a boiling point at 1 bar of less than 300°C is less than 0.5% by weight, based on said aqueous composition.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein a glass transition temperature of the polymer is from -50°C to +20°C.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -35 to 20°C.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -30 to 0°C.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -28 to -5°C.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the aqueous composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, a dispersant, a defoamer and a preservative.

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 9, wherein said floor covering is selected from the group consisting of a carpet made of polyvinyl chloride, a floor covering made of polyvinyl chloride, a foam covering with a textile backing, a polyester nonwoven, a rubber covering, a textile covering with a backing of polyurethane foam, styrene-butadiene foam, or a secondary textile backing, a needlefelt floor covering, a polyolefin covering, and a linoleum covering.

Claims 29-30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A method of bonding a substrate, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said substrate; and
bonding the substrate to a floor covering,
wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, M_n , of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000, where said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer, and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler;

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μm , a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μm and a combination thereof; and

wherein said polymer further comprises a monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C_1 - C_{10} -hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylamide and its N- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-substituted derivative, an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a monoester of a dicarboxylic acid and an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 31, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of wood, concrete, a ceramic tile, and a metal substrate.

Claims 33-35 (Canceled)

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A method of adhering a floor covering, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said floor covering; and
installing the floor covering,
wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, M_n , of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000, where said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer, and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler;

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μm , a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μm and a combination thereof; and

wherein a content of a volatile organic compound having a boiling point at 1 bar of less than 300°C is less than 0.5% by weight, based on said aqueous composition.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 80 to 100% by weight in said polymer.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate is present in an amount of from 90 to 99.8% by weight in said polymer.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said aqueous composition has 10 to 45% by weight of said polymer and 55 to 90% by weight of said filler.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said aqueous composition has 60 to 85% by weight of said filler.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer comprises at least one monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₂₀-alkyl (meth)acrylate, a vinyl ester of a carboxylic acid having up to 20 carbon atoms, a vinylaromatic compound having up to 20 carbon atoms, an ethylenically unsaturated nitrile, a vinyl halide and a nonaromatic hydrocarbon having at least 2 conjugated double bonds.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer optionally further comprises a monomer unit selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₁₀-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, a (meth)acrylamide and its N-C₁-C₄-alkyl-substituted derivative, an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, a dicarboxylic acid, a monoester of a dicarboxylic acid and an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 40% by weight.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0 to 20% by weight.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 42, wherein said monomer unit is present in said polymer in an amount of from 0.2 to 10% by weight.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the gel content of said polymer is more than 5% and less than 20% by weight.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, where the polymer is present in the form of an aqueous dispersion with a concentration of from 40 to 75%.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein a glass transition temperature of the polymer is from -50°C to +20°C.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -35 to 20°C.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -30 to 0°C.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature of from -28 to -5°C.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein the aqueous composition further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, a dispersant, a defoamer and a preservative.

Claim 53 (Canceled)

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 36, wherein said floor covering is selected from the group consisting of a carpet made of polyvinyl chloride, a floor covering made of polyvinyl chloride, a foam covering with a textile backing, a polyester nonwoven, a rubber covering, a textile covering with a backing of polyurethane foam, styrene-butadiene foam, or a secondary textile backing, a needlefelt floor covering, a polyolefin covering, and a linoleum covering.

Claims 55-56 (Canceled)

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A method of bonding a substrate, comprising:
applying an aqueous composition to said substrate; and
bonding the substrate to a floor covering,
wherein said aqueous composition comprises:

A) 10 to 50% by weight of a polymer having a gel content of 5 to 40% by weight and a number-average molecular weight, M_n , of a tetrahydrofuran-soluble fraction of less than 30,000, where said polymer comprises from 60 to 100% by weight of a C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylate or mixture of at least two C_1 - to C_{20} -alkyl (meth)acrylates, based on a total weight of said polymer, and

B) 50 to 90% by weight of a filler;

wherein the amount of said polymer and the amount of said filler are based on the weight sum of the polymer and of the filler;

wherein said filler is selected from the group consisting of a chalk having an average particle diameter of from 2 to 50 μm , a quartz flour having an average particle diameter of from 3 to 50 μm and a combination thereof; and

wherein a content of a volatile organic compound having a boiling point at 1 bar of less than 300°C is less than 0.5% by weight, based on said aqueous composition.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 57, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of wood, concrete, a ceramic tile, and a metal substrate.

Claims 59-61 (Canceled)